

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadowaki (US 5450466).

Regarding claim 1, Kadowaki et al. teaches a system comprising a drive system for positioning a radiation source (11) facing a radiation detector (12) relative to a target object (col. 4, line 36), a frame (20) and a support (10) for the radiation source and the radiation detector (see figure 15), which support is slidably mounted and rotatable with respect to the frame (col. 4, lines 42-44), the support via a central position relative to the frame being rotatable between a first and a second extreme position (figure 12b illustrates a first extreme position and figure 14b illustrates a second extreme position), characterized in that the drive system comprises first and

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second timing pulleys (62 - the one closest to the x-ray source 11 - and 64, respectively; col. 7, lines 67-68), at least one of the first and second timing pulleys (64) being drivable by a drive element (63) and a belt (61; col. 7, lines 67-68) which is attached to the support via a first and a second connection point (see figure 15), wherein, at any rate in central position of the support, the belt runs from the first connection point in a zigzag configuration over the first and second timing pulleys to the second connection point (see figure 15).

However, Kadowaki et al. fails to teach that the support is slidably mounted to the frame via a bearing system.

Hollstein teaches a support (11) that is slidably mounted to a frame (67) via a bearing system (85, see figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Kadowaki et al. such that the support is bearing mounted to the frame as suggested by Hollstein since one would have been motivated to make such a modification to provide a smoother slide between the support and frame.

Regarding claim 3, Kadowaki et al. teaches the part of the belt running from the second timing pulley to the first timing pulley is led over a third timing pulley (60; col. 7, lines 67-68) of the drive system, the third timing pulley being located between the first and the second timing pulleys and between the support and the belt (see figure 15).

Regarding claim 4, Kadowaki et al. teaches that the support comprises a C-arc (col. 4, lines 39-40; see figure 15) to which the radiation source and the radiation detector are attached diametrically relative to each other (col. 4, lines 39-42; see figure 15) and in which the radiation

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source and the radiation detector comprise an x-ray radiation source (col. 4, lines 35-36) and an x-ray detector (col. 4, lines 37-39).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a system requiring that the zigzag configuration of the belt runs from the first connection point along the first timing pulley, over the second timing pulley, over the first timing pulley and along the second timing pulley to the second connection point, in this order, at any rate, wherein, in the central position of the support, the first timing pulley is positioned in closer proximity of the first connection point than of the second connection point and the second timing pulley is positioned in closer proximity of the second connection point than of the first connection point, in combination with all the other limitations of the claim.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Timmermans et al. (US 2008/0198973) teaches an x-ray system comprising a drive system comprising a first and second pulley (38 and 40) and a belt (44) which runs from a first connection (52) to a second connection point (54) in a zigzag configuration.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MONA M. SANEI whose telephone number is (571)272-8657.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-W 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward J. Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mona M Sanei/
Examiner, Art Unit 2882

/Edward J Glick/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2882